

# THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

## BRIEFS

### PODCAST ASSISTS STRUGGLING CHURCHES

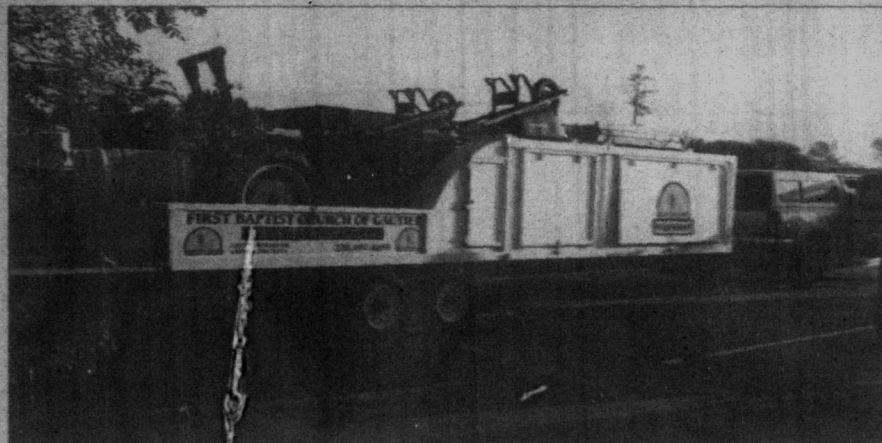
NASHVILLE (BP) — The Oct. 5 launch of the Revitalize and Replant with Thom Rainer podcast series will feature the president of Southern Baptists' LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville encouraging churches confronting the possibility of having to close their doors. The series will explore the challenges of turning a church around and will include a question and answer time for those serving in struggling congregations. In addition to the podcast, resources will be available at ChurchReplanters.com. The podcast can be accessed at iTunes, Google Play, Stitcher, or TuneIn Radio.

### KY. ULTRASOUND LAW DENIED BY FED COURT

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP and local reports) — A Kentucky law requiring doctors who conduct abortions to display and describe to a mother the ultrasound of her developing child, as well as play audio of the fetal heartbeat, violates the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment rights of those physicians, a federal judge has ruled. U.S. District Judge David Hale, an appointee of former U.S. President Barack Obama, ruled Sept. 27 in favor of the American Civil Liberties Union's challenge to the law by the state's only abortion provider, EMW Women's Surgical Center in Louisville, and bans the state from enforcing it.

### SS DIRECTOR FRANCIS RETIRES IN FEBRUARY

NASHVILLE (BP) — David Francis, director of Sunday School for LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville since 2005, has announced he will retire next February. His successor will be Allan Taylor, currently LifeWay's director of church education. Francis is best known for a series of books published annually on various aspects of Bible study ministry. More than a quarter-million of his books have been sold, with thousands of additional copies distributed at conferences and online. The books can be downloaded free at lifeway.com/davidfrancis.



**HEADING OUT** — The disaster response team from First Church, Gautier, left Oct. 2 for Orange, Texas, where Mississippi Disaster Relief volunteers have been working since shortly after Hurricane Harvey devastated the area. The team will return Oct. 6. (BP photo courtesy of Philip Price)

## Puerto Rico response set

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP and local reports) — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) Send Relief ministry has been asked to manage the disaster response to Hurricane Maria on behalf of the Convention of Southern Baptist Churches in Puerto Rico.

"The needs here are unprecedented, and we need our entire Southern Baptist family to help Puerto Rico during this tragic time," said Jorge Alvarez, who leads the Puerto Rican convention.

David Melber, NAMB's vice president of Send Relief, and

his team will work with state Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDRL) partners to see that Southern Baptists meet the need.

In NAMB's structure, Send Relief includes traditional SBDRL ministry but also has service options for untrained church groups and individual volunteers.

"This really is an unprecedented event in Puerto Rico's history," Melber said. "We as Southern Baptists cannot let our neighbors and friends down."

NAMB and SBDRL received permission Sept. 28 from the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) to move in to Puerto Rico while search and rescue operations are still underway.

As soon as possible, Send Relief will be working to send help to those who are on the fringes of the ravaged island where relief has been more difficult to come by.

Don Gann, Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief (MBDR) coordinator and director of men's ministry at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said MBDR is on standby for service in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Both U.S.

see PUERTO RICO on p. 9

## Fifth Circuit not to hear appeal for MS HB 1523

### NEW ORLEANS (Special) —

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans has denied a rehearing appeal on the Mississippi law commonly known as HB 1523 that protects the religious liberty of the state's citizens by allowing them to decline to become involved in situations related to LBGT (Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender).

Previously, a three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit overturned U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves' ruling in Jackson that the law was unconstitutional. The panel ruled the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, Campaign for Southern Equality, did not have legal standing to sue the state over the law.

Campaign for Southern Equality had appealed for a rehearing before the full Fifth Circuit, called an *en banc* hearing. The denial means that, barring any further appeals and injunctions, the law will go into effect on Oct. 6.

The law, formally known as the Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government Discrimination Act, passed the Mississippi Legislature in 2016 and was signed by

see HB 1523 on p. 11

## Long-term recovery takes shape in Texas

# TxRebuild!

HOUSTON (BP and local reports) — Southern Baptist churches and ministries both in Texas and outside the state are planning the next phase of recovery — getting people back into their homes and church buildings — and they are depending on God to move in hearts across the nation to accomplish the task.

Estimates of the damage are hard to comprehend, said Terry Wright, pastor of Vidor First Church, just in Orange County, where his church is located and Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief has stationed hundreds of volunteers. 80% of the homes went under water. Some houses were flooded up to the eaves.

Throughout the storm's 54-county path of destruction in Texas, an estimated 270,000 homes sustained flood or wa-

ter damage and 80% of those had no flood insurance. Nearly 800 churches affiliated with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC) are in the affected zone, and about 250 have indicated they might be in need of some assistance.

Many of those churches were underinsured or had no insurance at all, and churches don't qualify for Federal Emergency Management Administration grants. Cash-strapped churches may be forced to close.

The maximum \$33,500 payout to qualified homeowners only covers a fraction of repair

and replacement costs, so without donations of construction materials and volunteer skilled laborers many Texas homeowners face incomplete or insufficient repairs.

Many storm victims continue to turn to churches for help and hope. "They're looking for something bigger than the storm," Wright said.

Texas Rebuild, launched last week by SBTC, will focus recovery efforts on churches, the "lighthouses of hope for a community" said Kenneth Priest, SBTC convention strategies director.

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### A misspent life

A "hero" of American culture has died. Hugh Marston Hefner, unabashed pornographer who raised the objectification of women to a high art, passed away Sept. 27 at the age of 91 at his Los Angeles estate.

Hefner was known worldwide as the creator of Playboy magazine in 1953. He built an empire around the nudity-filled publication that was eventually known as Playboy Enterprises, Inc. His company not only included the magazine but also Playboy-owned mansions that constantly hosted wild parties and reputed sex orgies in Chicago, where he was born, and at the Los Angeles estate where he took his last breath; his own private commercial-sized aircraft that also had a reputation for immoral conduct while in flight; a salacious television series; a chain of raunchy nightclubs; and other sex-related investments — "sex-related" being the apparent common thread.

Nothing in Hefner's background indicated that he would turn into a dirty old man at such a young age. He was the first child of a teacher and an accountant. He was raised Methodist. He did a stint in the U.S. Army and after that received an undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana. He did earn a minor in creative writing at the university, however, and dove into his first job in the magazine business as a copywriter for Esquire magazine in New York City — then known as one of the raciest "men's magazines" in the country by the moral standards of that day.

After he was denied a \$5 raise by the magazine, he left to start up Playboy in 1953. His mother was one of his earliest investors.

The first issue of Playboy included a body-length nude shot of a young actress named Marilyn Monroe. The photograph had been purchased from the owner of a 1949 calendar in which Monroe had appeared. Both Monroe and Playboy were catapulted into cultural fame.

Hefner, by the way, never met Monroe before her death but purchased the vacant crypt beside her crypt in a Los Angeles cemetery in 1992 for a reported \$75,000.

"Spending eternity next to Marilyn is an opportunity too sweet

to pass up," Hefner told the Los Angeles Times.

Hefner's death brought praise for his life from the usual hedonistic quarters. "Hef changed my life. I couldn't be more thankful for our friendship and our time together," said Kendra Wilkinson, who appeared nude in Playboy and, despite a huge age gap, dated Hefner for five years.

"Hugh Hefner was a GIANT in publishing, journalism, free speech & civil rights. He was a true original, and he was my friend. Rest well Hef," tweeted retired radio and television talk show host Larry King.

"RIP to the legendary Hugh Hefner! I'm so honored to have been a part of the Playboy team! You will be greatly missed! Love you Hef!" tweeted Kim Kardashian West, who herself appears nude at every opportunity.

"We've lost a true explorer, a man who had a keen sense of the future," said television creator and producer Norman Lear.

"Thank you for being a revolutionary and changing so many people's lives, especially mine. I hope I made you proud," tweeted actress Jenny McCarthy, who got her start in the entertainment business by posing nude for Playboy.

Rehashing all that history on his page and posting the worldly commendations for a man who made this country a much cruder place is not meant to laud him. It is meant to show how tragically misguided our lives can be when Jesus is not at the center. It is meant to show, even after a good start, just how easily Satan can invade our hearts and minds and, with the help of the endless material blandishments at his disposal, can make us believe that we are our own god.

It is meant to show how thoroughly we can be led away from God by ungodly people. It is meant to show how helpless we will find ourselves in the clutches of the Evil One, and how much we need Jesus to save us.

Hugh Hefner's idea of how to "spend eternity" is wrong of course, but characteristic of how he lived a perverse life centered primarily on satisfying his voracious appetite for worldly pleasure. We have been called to a higher priority. Let us always live out that truth. Let us always follow Jesus.

## You're Worth It to God

You've likely heard the platitude, "You have to love yourself before someone else can love you."

It doesn't happen every day, but when life seems to become too complicated or my depression takes hold, it's like an emotional and mental levee breaks. I begin to see my shortcomings as failures, my comforts as complacencies, and my difficulties as incompetence.

Self-hate creeps in before I can barely detect it. I trick myself into thinking I need to try harder, as if my salvation depends on me. I try to do anything that will make God happier with me. I begin to wonder if I will ever be worthy of God's affection again, or if I ever had it in the first place.

It pops into my head, "Can God love me if I hate myself?"

If you're anything like me, take heart. God designed the Gospel for us unworthies. Jesus says in Mark 2:17, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." In the very beginnings of His public ministry, Jesus begins replacing the world's platitudes with His: Our sickness is the very thing that makes us savable.

The proud and haughty seek to be their own saviors. Gospel-needy people are sick and they are often shameful. They know they can do nothing and need to be rescued by someone whose status supersedes their own. They know they need to be fixed because they feel sin's pang deep in their bones.

If you find yourself feeling sick and shameful, consider that God could be using it to remind you that you are not capable of saving yourself. Instead of being antithetical to God's salvation, your sickness and shame actually pave the way for it.

Even so, while we believe God is able to save us, some of us wonder if He actually loves us, perhaps because we have sinned one too many times or we feel we are too stubborn to be loved. This, too, misunderstands the love of God.

When you can't love yourself and wonder where God's love is, remember the God by Whom you are loved:



**Guest opinion**  
with Cody Glen  
Barnhart

■ You may doubt it sometimes, but you are called, justified, and glorified by the Father (Romans 8:30). The Father actually loves us and calls us His children so that we will be like Him, since we shall see Him as He is (1 John 3:1-2).

■ You may doubt it sometimes, but Jesus can actually free you from your sins (Romans 6:22). He is not ashamed to call you His brother or sister because you have actually been made holy by His sacrifice (Hebrews 2:11).

■ You may doubt it sometimes, but the Holy Spirit can actually effect change in your life (Romans 12:2). The Spirit brings us true life — something the flesh cannot do (John 6:63).

You are not worthy of the Gospel. You never have been. God's love is not due to your loveableness. Because of this, He will not leave you, even when you're unlovable.

You are reckoning with a God who came down to take on flesh so that He could replace your unworthiness with His worthiness — a God who loves you even when you don't love yourself. Your doubts cannot overpower the unchangeable character of God. Your blood-bought status can never be revoked by even the deepest fears or the darkest doubts. Your sonship in the family of God is the result of Christ's merits alone, and He is the one who loves even the most unlovable.

Barnhart, of Maryville, Tn., is a student at Midwestern Seminary where he is pursuing his M.Div. He writes at [theblazingcenter.com](http://theblazingcenter.com). His commentary appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style and length.

## THE Baptist Record

**Editor**  
William H. Perkins Jr.  
[wperkins@mbcb.org](mailto:wperkins@mbcb.org)

**Associate Editor**  
Tony Martin  
[tmartin@mbcb.org](mailto:tmartin@mbcb.org)

**Layout/Design**  
Megan Young  
[myoung@mbcb.org](mailto:myoung@mbcb.org)

**Advertising**  
Dana Richardson  
[d Richardson@mbcb.org](mailto:d Richardson@mbcb.org)

**Circulation Manager**  
Amy Matney  
[amatney@mbcb.org](mailto:amatney@mbcb.org)

**Baptist Record Advisory Committee:**  
Whit Lewis, New Albany  
Derrick Wilson, Kosciusko  
Carolyn Reeves, Oxford  
Garland Boyd, Brookhaven  
Lucy Springer, Foxworth  
Dixie Hicks, Bay Springs

**Postmaster:**  
Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

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**Tel:** (601) 968-3800  
**Fax:** (601) 292-3330  
**E-mail:** [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org)



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# Do churches prepare properly for suicide intervention, care?

NASHVILLE (BP) — Suicide remains a taboo subject in many Protestant churches despite the best efforts of pastors, according to a new study by LifeWay Research, the arm of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville that specializes in surveys about faith in culture and matters that affect churches.

Eight in 10 Protestant senior pastors surveyed believe their church is equipped to intervene with someone who is threatening suicide, according to a study released Sept. 29. Yet few people turn to the church for help before taking their own lives, according to their churchgoing friends and family.

Only four percent of churchgoers who have lost a close friend or family member to suicide say church leaders were aware of their loved one's struggles.

"Despite their best intentions, churches don't always know how to help those facing mental health struggles," said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research.

## Not unusual?

Suicide remains a common-place tragedy, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. More than 44,000 Americans took their own lives in 2015, the most recent year for which statistics are available.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Americans ages 15-34 and the fourth leading cause of death for those ages 35-44.

LifeWay Research found suicide often affects churches. Researchers surveyed 1,000 Protestant senior pastors and 1,000 Protestant and nondenominational churchgoers who attend services at least once a month, in a study sponsored by the American Association of Christian Counselors, Liberty University Graduate Counseling program, the Liberty University School of Medicine, and the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

LifeWay's study found 76% of churchgoers say suicide is a problem that needs to be addressed in their community. About a third say a close acquaintance or family member has died by suicide.

Those churchgoers personally affected by suicide were asked questions about the most recent person they know who died by suicide. Forty-two percent said they lost a family member, and 37% lost a friend. Others lost a co-worker (six percent), social acquaintance (five percent), fellow church member (two percent) or other loved one (eight percent).

Thirty-five percent of these suicide victims attended church at least monthly during the months prior to death, according to their friends and family.

Yet few of those friends and family say church members (four percent) or church leaders (four percent) knew of their loved one's struggles.

## Response

When a suicide occurs, churches often respond with care and concern to survivors. About half of churchgoers affected by suicide say their church prayed with the family afterward. Forty-three percent say church members attended their loved one's visitation or funeral. Forty-one percent say someone from the church visited their family, while 32% received a card.

Churches also provide financial help (11%), referral to a counselor (11%), and help with logistics like cleaning and child care (10%) or planning for the funeral (22%).

Still, churchgoers have mixed responses to suicide.

Overall, 67% of churchgoers say the loved ones of a suicide victim are treated the same as any other grieving family. Eighty-four percent say churches should provide resources to people who struggle with mental illness and their families.

Eighty-six percent say their church would be a safe, confidential place to disclose a suicide attempt or suicidal thoughts.

Churchgoers are aware that friends and family of a person who dies by suicide can be isolated from the help they need because of the stigma of suicide. That can be true inside and outside the church, according to the survey.

Fifty-five percent of churchgoers say people in their community are more likely to gossip about a suicide than to help a victim's family. Few churchgoers say their church takes specific steps to address suicide or has resources to assist those experiencing a mental health crisis.

A quarter of churchgoers say their church has shared a testimony in the past year of someone who has struggled with mental illness or thoughts of suicide. Fewer (22%) say the church has used sermons in the past year to discuss issues that increase the risk of suicide.

Thirteen percent say their church has taught what the church believes about suicide, while 14% say the church trained leaders to identify suicide risk factors. Thirteen percent say their church shared reminders about national resources for suicide prevention.

Churches are most likely to offer prayer support (57%) or small group ministry (41%), according to churchgoers.

Researchers also found that few churchgoers say their church is hostile to mental health concerns. Fifty-four percent say their

church encourages counseling, while only two percent say their church discourages counseling.

Twenty-one percent say their church has no opinion about counseling, while 23% aren't sure of their church's stance.

Twenty-six percent say their churches encourage the use of medications in treating mental illness. Six percent say their church discourages the use of prescription medications. Most say their church has no opinion about medications (37%) or are not sure what their church's stance is (31%).

## Churches helping

Most Protestant pastors believe their church is taking a proactive role in preventing suicide and ministering to those affected by mental illness, according to LifeWay Research.

While 80% say their church is equipped to assist someone who is threatening suicide, only 30% strongly agree, meaning more than 2 in 3 pastors acknowledge they could be better equipped.

"Suicide in our culture has for too long been a topic we are afraid to discuss," said Tim Clinton, president of the American Association of Christian Counselors. "Our prayer is that this research will start a national conversation on addressing the suicide pandemic in our nation, and we started by assessing the church's perspective on and response to the issue."

"We need a clinically responsive approach that gives the gift of life back to those who feel filled with emptiness."

Pastors say they are aware when suicides happen in their community. Sixty-nine percent say they know of at least one suicide in their community over the past year. Of those suicides, about four in 10 affected church members or their friends and families.

Ninety-two percent say their church is equipped to help family members when a suicide occurs. Pastors say their church springs into action, offering prayer (86%), calling (84%) or visiting with the victim's family (80%) and providing meals (68%).

Churches also connect families with professional counseling (53%), help plan funerals (48%), connect the family with someone else who's experienced a suicide in the family (44%) or provide other assistance.

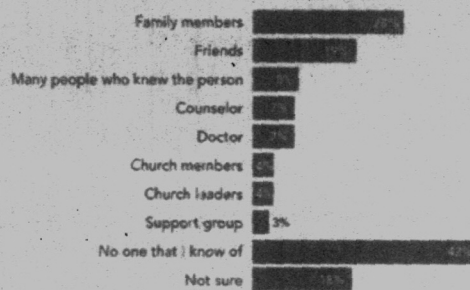
A number of pastors also say they've been proactive in preparing to minister to those at risk of suicide. Forty-one percent say they have received formal training in suicide prevention, while 46% have a procedure to follow when they learn someone is at risk.

Fifty percent say they have posted the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number (800-

## SUICIDE RESEARCH

Among Protestant churchgoers who have had a family member or close acquaintance die by suicide:

During the months prior to death, who was aware of the person's struggles or risk of suicide?



Source: Pastors not to answer 1%. Respondents could select all that applied.

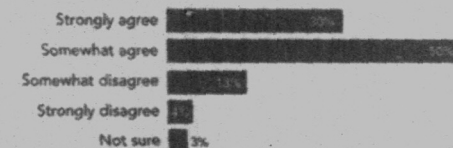
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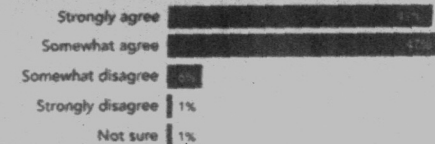
## SUICIDE RESEARCH

Among Protestant pastors:

Our church is equipped to assist someone who is threatening to take his or her own life.



Our church is equipped to care for a family that experiences the suicide of a loved one.



LifeWay

LifeWay Christian Resources

273-8255) where staff can find it.

Still, pastors are more likely to say their churches take a proactive role in preventing suicide than churchgoers are.

■ 51% of pastors vs. 16% of churchgoers say their church has a list of mental health professionals who can treat those considering suicide.

■ 46% of pastors vs. 12% of churchgoers say their church regularly addresses mental illness.

■ 36% of pastors vs. 22% of churchgoers say their church has a lay counseling ministry.

■ 29% of pastors vs. 23% of churchgoers say their church has a trained counselor on staff.

■ 18% of pastors vs. 12% of churchgoers say their church has a crisis response team.

McConnell says it is clear churches want to be proactive in suicide prevention. They're also quick to respond to grieving families, he says. Still, there's much work to be done to reduce the stigma of mental illness and suicide, McConnell points out.

Ronald Hawkins, provost and founding dean of the School of Behavioral Sciences at Liberty University, said churches aren't always a safe place for people to be vulnerable. According to the research, that seems especially true when someone is at risk for suicide.

He hopes the recent study will prompt churches to do more to prevent suicides. "I and others in ministry have too often looked into the grief-stricken faces of those whose loved ones have taken their own lives."

"If you have been there, your heart cry is, 'Please, Lord no more.' Yet it seems there are always more. Our research suggests that Christ followers need to work harder at providing safe places, so filled with love and grace that trust can flourish."

"In such a place, those who have come to believe that suicide may be their only option may dare to open up their inner world and experience a reawakening of hope."

I was driving down one of our highways and came to a long curve in the road. On the left side, there was a series of those temporary orange signs. They had something written on them, and there were probably six or eight of them lined up so many yards apart, all of them apparently saying the same thing. From where I was watching as I was going around the curve, it looked like it said on these signs: Movers Ahead. I thought to myself, "What kind of movers are up here? Are they moving trees? Are they moving machinery? Are they moving dirt? What kind of movers are up here?" When I got around the curve and had gone a quarter or a half a mile, I saw the movers were not movers but mowers cutting the grass along the highway.

Until I got to the mowers and realized what I had misread, I was thinking about how needful it is in the Christian life to have movers. Movers to take things out. Movers to bring things in. Movers to move on. At times it is important for a church to pause long enough to take evaluation of things that need to be moved. The great prophet Jeremiah said the Lord called him to his ministry: "See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant" (Jeremiah 1:10). In other words, Jeremiah had been called of God to be one of those Movers Ahead.

It is a fact that the people of God at times need to move things out. Like it or not and even not recognizing it, there



## Movers Ahead

are things that become a part of our daily activities and our church life that may seriously need to be moved out. They don't have any place among the people of God and in the work of God. Jeremiah needs to come and take hold of some of us. He needs to take hold of some of those things and root them out and pull them up and destroy and throw them down.

What kind of things? They are numerous, but consider these. Wrong relationships need to be thrown out. Bad attitudes need to be rooted out and done away with. Mean motives that people have that need to be gotten rid of. A resistant spirit that doesn't want to see change, or does not want to listen to God, needs to be dealt with. Jeremiah's call to ministry was a very difficult under-

taking for him, but it was true that God had called him and he was on a mission to see that the people of God had a lot of these and other things rooted out from among them.

Jeremiah's ministry didn't stop there, nor should the Movers Ahead stop because it's not just things taken out but things brought in. For Jeremiah, he said God called him to build and to plant. There are things that need to be brought into our lives that maybe once were there and are now gone and need to be reestablished. What kind of things? Things like a daily, purposeful communication with God — prayer. Not just a flippant, quick prayer as you head out the door and down the road, but a meeting with God about the essentials of life needs to be brought into every one of

our lives and anchored as a part of our everyday existence.

A trust relationship with our wonderful Lord needs to be anchored in us. An obedient heart willing to do whatever God wants us to do, say whatever He wants us to say, love who He wants us to love, forgive who we need to forgive. It needs to be brought into our lives, built up, planted to grow. Then if there were Movers Ahead in our churches to take things out, to put things in, and then to move on to what God wants us to do. To move on to touch people for Christ who need Jesus desperately. To not live in a selfish, self-centered world but to see a world that is without Christ about whom we have been given the Good News to share with them. To move on beyond ourselves to a world that can be touched for Him. To move on in the unfolding will of God for our lives that bring great joy and impact, not only on earth but in heaven.

God's will is dramatically, dynamically at work in His people. It might be good that we would put some signs all around our churches as we assemble to worship God and join as the people of God to serve Him. Some signs that say Movers Ahead. Movers in the call and lifestyle of Jeremiah to move a lot of things out and move a lot of things in and to move on triumphantly to do what the Lord has called us to do and to be the people that God wants us to be. God help us to not only put up signs but to find movers.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

## Ill. Governor changes course, signs abortion bill

WASHINGTON (BP) — Southern Baptist leaders reacted with deep disappointment to Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner's reversal in support of groundbreaking abortion-funding legislation.

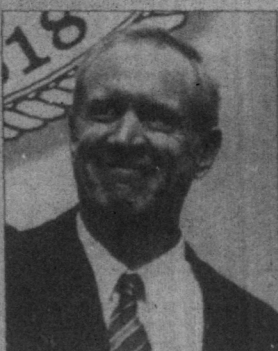
Rauner, a Republican, on Sept. 28 signed into law a bill that requires taxpayers to fund abortions for low-income women through the state's Medicaid program — even though he said in April he opposed it.

"[A]s I have always said, I believe a woman should have the right to make that choice herself and I do not believe that choice should be determined by income. I do not think it's fair to deny poor women the choice that wealthy women have," the governor argued.

"This is not a new position. I campaigned on this principle in 2014 and it is a principle I have tried to live up to throughout my life."

The new law also provides abortion funding for women covered by state employee insurance.

In signing the legislation, Rauner apparently established a precedent for state funding of abortion. Illinois becomes the first state in which the legislature and governor have acted to approve Medicaid funds for abortion, according to pro-life researcher Michael J. New.



RAUNER

New explained that Medicaid funding for abortion is currently legal in 15 states, but 11 of those decisions were by judicial fiat and four were by unelected officials ordering state health department action. Thus, Illinois is the first state to do so through the people's representatives.

Nate Adams, executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association in Springfield, said he joined Illinois Baptists and others in the state "in expressing great disappointment" with Rauner's action.

"I'm sure Baptists in Illinois will be letting Governor Rauner know how deeply distressing his action is to people who



ADAMS

revere God-given life," Adams said in a written statement for Baptist Press (BP).

"Taxpayers' money should not be used to fund abortions in any circumstance," Adams wrote. "In signing this bill, Governor Rauner has abandoned his earlier promises to pro-life representatives that he would veto the bill, thereby protecting the most defenseless in our culture and preventing state funding."

Daniel Darling, vice president for communications at the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, told BP he was "saddened to see Governor Rauner break his promise to veto this legislation that would

"Taxpayers' money should not be used to fund abortions in any circumstance. In signing this bill, Governor Rauner has abandoned his earlier promises to pro-life representatives that he would veto the bill, thereby protecting the most defenseless in our culture and preventing state funding."

Nate Adams

executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association

have not only protected" the lives of thousands of unborn children "but would have prevented taxpayers from subsidizing it."

"It is tragic enough that the extinguishing of the unborn is legal," Darling pointed out in written comments. "It's the height of arrogance to make taxpayers pay for it. Faithful Christians should pray for a day when both parties in Illinois see the humanity of the life in the womb and work to enshrine that dignity into law."

The result of legalizing state funding of abortion will be an increase in the number of the lethal procedure, New said in a Sept. 29 article for National Review. A "very broad consensus" exists on both sides of the abortion issue "that funding abortion through Medicaid results in more abortions," he wrote.

In a 2016 analysis, New found the restrictions on Med-

icaid funding blocked more than 144,000 abortions nationwide since 1976, saving about 3,800 unborn babies a year in Illinois.

The new Illinois law also would proactively protect the right to abortion in the state if the Roe v. Wade decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973, which legalized abortion nationwide and through all nine months of gestation, is overturned.

Six weeks earlier, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, signed into law a measure that requires health insurance companies to cover all abortions fully without a co-pay or deductible. It also provides increased funding for Medicaid to provide abortions for undocumented immigrants.

The new law confirms Oregon's status as "the most radically pro-abortion state in America," according to Oregon Right to Life.



# Christian Action COMMISSION CONCEPTS

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f CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

WITH KENNY DIGBY



**"P**ro" can be an abbreviation for "professional" (as opposed to an amateur), just as "fan" is a shortened form of "fanatic." Or — "pro" can be a prefix, meaning support or favor. The opposite prefix to "pro" is "anti." We are looking at the prefix, not the abbreviation.

We are "pro-life!" We understand the Bible to be pro-life. God created human life on Day 6. This special word for "create" is used in Genesis 1:1, Genesis 1:21, and Genesis 1:27. It is different from "made" or "formed." This special word means to "create out of nothing," instead of made or formed out of pre-existing material. When we are saved, a new life is "created" — II Corinthians 5:17. Both words "create" and "made" are used in Genesis 2:3.

The "creation" of human life by Jehovah God gives value — eternal value — to the human soul. This Crown of Creation was created in the image of God. This is not a tangible image (John 4:24), for God is Spirit. God is a Trinity, and we are a trinity. We believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. God is one being manifested in three persons — 3 in 1.

As His image, we are 3 in 1. We have a Spirit, we have a mind (more than a brain), we have a body, but we "are" a SOUL — a Human Soul. He saved my soul. Human life has an eternal dimension. This is why we always value human life over animal life of any kind.

Human life was the finishing work of the 6 days. God saved the best for last (Eve is last). All of creation was "good," (God does not create a mess — Isaiah 45:18), but Day 6 and the creation of human life was "very good" — Genesis 1:31. We are pro-life — human life — because Jehovah God is pro-life.

## "Pro" What?



**PRO-LIFE** — Christian Action Commission executive director-treasurer Kenny Digby (left) tours the Center for Pregnancy Choices (CPC) in Jackson with clinic director Jay-Tea Leggett (center) and CPC executive director Erin Kate Goode (right). The state-of-the-art sonogram machine at the facility was funded by Mississippi Baptists through the Memorial to the Missing. (Photo courtesy of Becky Digby)

In those who support abortion (the murder of an unborn child), do not like the word "pro-abortion" — for the murder of a helpless baby is awful to any rational person. They want to be called "pro-choice," not "pro-abortion." But a skunk by any other name is still a skunk. A murderer and any accomplices to the murder of unborn babies will give account to the Creator.

You can call gambling — gaming. You can call pro-abortion — pro-choice. We

are anti-gambling and anti-abortion. But we are pro-life, all human life.

Here is my question. Are you PROACTIVE as a pro-life believer? Words are cheap, though necessary. What about your actions? Do you put your money where your mouth is? Do you give your time and energy as a volunteer? Have you considered adoption or foster parenting?

In a recent 5-day period, I participated in a pro-life forum on a Sunday night at Meadowview Baptist Church, Starkville.

with pastor Jason Middleton; I participated in a noonday prayer vigil on Wednesday at the only abortion clinic in Mississippi. On Thursday night of that 5-day period, we (the CAC) sponsored a table at Bethany Christian Services' banquet and participated in that event.

The key word is "participate." I confess my lack of participation in this arena, and it is an arena and we need gladiators. Becky and I plan to participate in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. on January 19.

After the noonday prayer vigil at the Fondren area abortion clinic in north Jackson, we were invited to cross State Street to the Center for Pregnancy Choices (CPC). They showed us the state-of-the-art sonogram machine that you as Mississippi Baptists purchased with the money from the Memorial to the Missing. All those pennies will keep on working till Jesus comes. Many young women will become pro-life when they "see" their babies. It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness. Recently, we helped financially with Oasis Medical Center in Corinth and My Choices Pregnancy Help Clinic in Ripley in their efforts to save lives.

Most of you are pro-life believers. Are you pro-active Christians? Would you commit today to be pro-life and pro-active? Cut a check, make a call, hold a sign, volunteer, pray, do something! The smallest good deed far exceeds the grandest intention. Do something to save an innocent life! Pro? Pro what?

Digby is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at (601) 292-3329/office, (662) 284-9163/cell, or by e-mail at [kdigby@christianaction.com](mailto:kdigby@christianaction.com).

## Physicians oppose state-approved assisted suicide

**ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP)** — The American College of Physicians argues medicine's goal is not to control the manner and timing of death. Amid increasing attempts to legalize euthanasia at the state level, the nation's second-largest network of physicians officially spoke out against it last week.

The American College of Physicians (ACP) wrote in a position statement published Sept. 19 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* that the organization of 152,000 medical professionals stands against the legalization of physician-assisted suicide, "the practice of which raises ethical, clinical, and other concerns."

"Control over the manner and timing of a person's death has not been and should not be a goal of medicine," the group concluded. "However, through high-quality care, effective communication, compassionate support, and the right resources, physicians can

help patients control many aspects of how they live out life's last chapter."

The position paper came in response to increasing public interest in legalizing euthanasia to promote patient autonomy at the end of life. The ACP said it remained "attentive to all voices" but decided to oppose legalization efforts.

John Haas, president of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, said the decision is "wonderful news."

The ACP statement is "giving voice to the real need of compassionate and supportive care for people who may be considering requests for assisted suicide and protecting the role of physicians as healers, not killers," he said.

The much larger American Medical Association (AMA) has for years discouraged physicians from being "involved in interventions that have as their pri-

mary intention the ending of a person's life."

Alex Schadenberg, director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, said the ACP statement aligning with the AMA should help shatter the pro-euthanasia movement's illusion of unstoppable momentum.

"The facts show otherwise, that there's not really a massive turn toward assisted suicide going on," he said. "Over and over again, almost every state is constantly defeating this. The doctors remain against it. The court decisions in the last couple of years have all gone against it, and yet there's a perception that the opposite is true."

Physician statements like the ACP's carry a lot of weight with legislators "because when you legalize assisted suicide, you're actually asking physicians to be directly and intentionally involved with giving lethal drugs to their patients," Schadenberg said.

In Canada, where lawmakers legalized assisted suicide last year, advocates have pushed to expand the Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) law to include children and patients with dementia, Schadenberg noted. Some Canadian doctors have opted out of the law but last week, the *Montreal Gazette* cited a recent Quebec study showing 91% of caregivers support expanding MAID to patients with Alzheimer's and dementia.

The pro-euthanasia camp has yet to make such headway in the United States. Since Oregon passed its Death with Dignity Act in 1994, lawmakers have filed 231 bills seeking to legalize euthanasia in state legislatures across the country, according to the Patients Rights Council.

One-fifth — 43 bills — appeared this year, and every one of them failed before becoming law.

Some states have defeated dozens of proposals. Hawaii faced 30 previous attempts to legalize euthanasia before this year's onslaught of five bills, and New York had 12 before this year's three bills.

Lawmakers in only five states — Oregon, Washington, Vermont, California, and Colorado — have legalized assisted suicide. The Council of the District of Columbia approved a law last year, but federal lawmakers could overturn that measure.

Meanwhile, Alabama adopted a ban on any form of aid in dying in June, and New York's high court refused to legalize physician-assisted suicide earlier this month.

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## Just for the Record



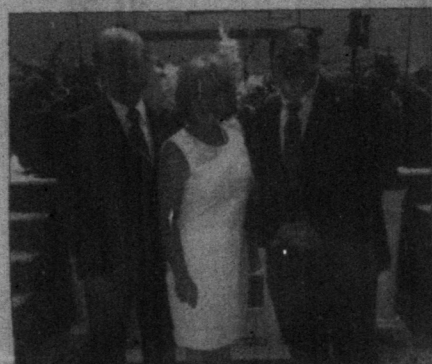
Ricky and Jewell Faye Gray recently celebrated 30 years at **FLOWOOD CHURCH, FLOWOOD**, where Gray pastors.



**LIBERTY CHURCH, WAYNESBORO**, ordained Zachary Williams to the gospel ministry July 9. Participating in the ordination were Brett Golson, Dwight Smith, and pastor Phillip Gandy (pictured).



**NEW HOPE CHURCH, WALNUT GROVE**, ordained James Tull as deacon Sept. 10. Shown are Truman Moore, Jewett Perkins, pastor Michael Harper, Tull, Grady Sims, Chad Arthur, and Michael Beasley.



**MORRISON CHAPEL CHURCH, CLEVELAND**, recently ordained Jackie Herbison as deacon. Shown are Herbison, his wife Renee, and pastor John Arthur Thomas.



**HAMILTON CHURCH, HAMILTON**, held a deacon ordination service for Doug Honnoll Aug. 20 with pastor Robert Moore officiating. Shown are Honnoll and Moore.



**HARMONY CHURCH, LOUISVILLE'S WMU** hosted a hand quilting class Aug. 26.



**FAIR RIVER CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, held a baby/parent dedication August 8th. Shown are the Phillips' with Christopher Rhett, the Waycaster's with Walker Lee and Madeline Camille, the Philipp's with Mason Calcote, the Xifos' with Aaryn McKinley, the Smith's with Fisher Hayes, and Pastor Jay Anderson.



**O'ZION CHURCH, MEADVILLE**, recently ordained Bobby Murray and Pat O'Quinn as deacons. Shown are pastor Glenn Bird, Murray, Linda Murray, Pansy O'Quinn, O'Quinn, and Emory May.



**CENTRAL CHURCH, BENTONIA**, held Vacation Bible School July 16 - 20.



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## College News



Robert Hederman III will be honored as **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** Alumnus of the Year Oct. 20, 6 p.m., during the Homecoming Awards dinner. A 1964 graduate, Hederman has actively served on the Baptist-affiliated university's Foundation Board since 2004. He's married to Jane Magnum Hederman, a 1967 MC graduate and member of the university's Board of Trustees. Robert's uncles and cousins attended Mississippi College. Others in the family who are former MC students include his mother, father, brothers, two sisters and two sons.



The **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** Lions Club and the Spirit of Carey band collected items to donate to the Hurricane Harvey relief efforts organized by the Pine Belt Baptist Association. Pictured are students (from left) Jacob Malone, Jennifer Walker and Chandler Smith.



Randall Crenshaw will be honored with the Order of the Golden Arrow Award at **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** during the Homecoming Awards dinner Oct. 20. For more than three decades, Crenshaw has served as an innovative leader with CommScope. The high-tech American firm helps companies around the world design, build and manage their wired and wireless networks. A resident of Murphy, Texas, Crenshaw has served as the company's executive vice president and chief operating officer since 2011.

## Just for the Record



**SILVER CREEK CHURCH, MCCOMB**, licensed Donnie Coker to the ministry Sept. 16, 2017. He is pictured with deacons and his wife, Debbie. Shown are J. D. Lightell, Harris Thornton, the Cokers, Austin Tolar, and Wallace McKenzie.



Women of **NEW BETHEL CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY**, collected and dressed 29 dolls for the Mission Hope children this coming Christmas season. Shown are from left, Mandy Gentry Brewer, Teresa Ansley, Judy Corder, Evelyn Beckwith, Annie Brewer, Rita Sansing, and Melanie Shelton.



**MIDWAY CHURCH, MERIDIAN**, recently recognized the Godly leadership with which the church has been blessed for more than 50 years, including (from left) Bill Webb, 1966-95; Wayne Edwards, 2009-14; Michael Bird, 2015-present; and Keith Grubbs, 1997-2008.



**FIRST CHURCH, BROOKLYN**, ordained Taylor Lindemann as a minister of the gospel and Karl Rieden as deacon. Lindemann is serving as minister of youth at the church. Shown are Rieden, Carol Rieden, pastor Kyle Jones, Adrian Lindemann, and Lindemann.

### In other Church News:

► **Salem Church, Raymond**, is hosting Hunter C. May in concert Oct. 8, 6 p.m.

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Scotland Church, Winona**: Homecoming, Oct. 8; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal. Revival, Oct. 8 - 11; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Randy Bridges, speaker; Craig Collins, music.

**Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg**: Homecoming, Oct. 8, 11 a.m.; Larry Savell, speaker.

**New Hope Church, Monticello**: Homecoming, Oct. 8; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m. followed by pot luck lunch; Rob Paul, speaker; Sweet Harmony, music.

**Holly Springs Church, Foxworth**: Homecoming, Oct. 8; service, 11 a.m., followed by a covered dish dinner and singing; Ricky Gray, speaker; The Camerons, music; Dave Nichols, pastor.

**Harmony Church, Brookhaven**: Homecoming, Oct. 8; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Clarence Young, speaker; Curley Cole, music.

**Immanuel Church, Greenwood**: 50 year celebration, Oct. 8; Jimmy Dukes (Immanuel's first preacher), speaker.

**Spring Hill Church, Waterford**: Homecoming and 175th anniversary, Oct. 8; Servants Heart singing, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Larry Dukes, speaker; John Parker, pastor.

**Union Church, Tylertown**: Homecoming and 202nd anniversary, Oct. 8; singing with Day 3 Trio, 9:45 a.m.; service, 10:45 a.m., followed by meal; Mike Sutton, speaker.

**Clear Branch Church, Florence**: Homecoming, Oct. 8; service, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Nick Hodges, speaker.



**LIBERTY CHURCH, KEMPER COUNTY**, held its 175th Anniversary Celebration on August 13. Seven former pastors spoke, and 15 commendations were presented from local, state and national officials. The new pastor, Dennis Robinson, led the worship service and the revival that followed. The day began with cemetery tours and culminated with the dedication of a time capsule and the release of 175 balloons containing the scripture from John 3:16. Shown are Robinson and his wife Johnna.

**McAdams Church, Attala Association**: Homecoming, Oct. 8; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Kelly Mitchell, speaker.

# Cross ordered removed from grounds of Pensacola park

**PENSACOLA, Fla. (BP)** — The city of Pensacola, Fla., has appealed a federal judge's ruling that a 34-foot-tall cross in one of its public parks must be removed.

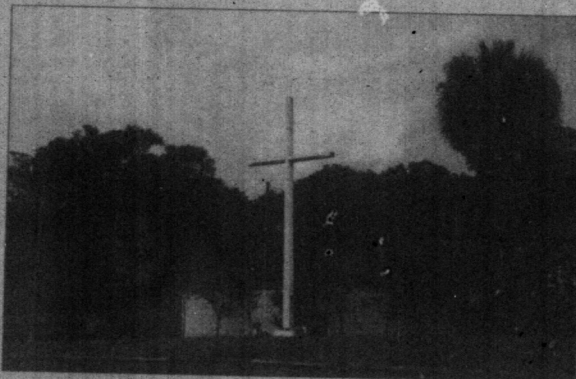
The city, represented by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, filed a 155-page brief with the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eleventh District in Atlanta on Sept. 26 claiming those who filed suit lack legal standing to bring a complaint and that the cross does not violate the U.S. Constitution's ban of government-established religion.

Becket is a conservative, Washington, D.C.-based non-profit organization focused on defending religious liberty.

A cross was first erected in Pensacola's Bayview Park in 1941, donated by the city's Junior Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with a community Easter gathering, according to the city's brief. The aging cross was replaced in 1969 with the cross currently in Bayview Park.

In 2016, the American Humanists Association and the Freedom From Religion Foundation filed a lawsuit on behalf of four people who objected to the cross, *Pensacola's News Journal* reported.

U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson, an appointee of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, ruled in June the cross vio-



**CROSS CONTROVERSY** — A 34-foot-tall cross in a Pensacola, Fla., public park is the subject of the legal battle between the city and four plaintiffs who sued to have it removed. (Becket Fund for Religious Liberty photo)

lates the Constitution's Establishment Clause as it has been interpreted by courts, and ordered the cross to be removed.

Vinson added, however, that while he is bound by higher court precedent, he hopes the U.S. Supreme Court will revisit its interpretation of the Establishment Clause, according to the *News Journal*.

In its appellate brief, Pensacola claimed the suit lacks legal standing because the plaintiffs have not demonstrated any injury due to the cross. None of the four plaintiffs made "any effort to avoid the cross, and all of

them encountered it for many years before filing suit, apparently without any distress," the city's brief stated.

One plaintiff has utilized the cross for his own "satanic purposes," according to the brief.

The American Humanists Association and the Freedom From Religion Foundation have until Nov. 16 to file their brief to the appeals court, with the city's reply due Dec. 14, the *News Journal* reported.

*Editor's note: Photograph is courtesy of Baptist Press/Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.*

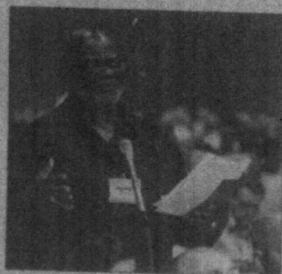
## Letter asks President to take action on 'alt-right' movement

**WASHINGTON (BP)** — A letter drafted by a group of Southern Baptists and others has called on U.S. President Donald Trump to denounce clearly the racism of the "alt-right."

The letter, titled Call for Unifying Leadership and first reported by CNN on Sept. 29, urges Trump to go beyond his previous comments and actions to rebuke a movement that "gained public prominence" during his presidential campaign.

The letter commends the president for signing a joint congressional resolution Sept. 14 rejecting white nationalism and supremacy, but also advises him the country "needs your voice and your convictions to defeat racist ideologies and movements in every form that they present themselves."

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Steve Gaines, senior pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis, was among those invited to be



**OFFERING MOTION** — Texas pastor Dwight McKissic makes a motion to bring his proposal on the "alt-right" to messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13 in Phoenix. (BP photo)

an original signer of the letter. Joining him were:

■ Fred Luter, the first African American president of the SBC.

■ Former SBC President James Merritt.

■ Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Seminary.

■ Russell Moore, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

The letter was a collaborative effort of a group of individuals led by Southern Baptist pastor Dwight McKissic, senior pastor of Cornerstone Church in Arlington, Texas, and Keith Whitfield, dean of graduate studies and assistant professor of theology at Southeastern Seminary.

Messengers to the SBC annual meeting in June adopted a resolution condemning "alt-right white supremacy" in a nearly unanimous vote after declining to address the issue earlier in the proceedings. McKissic submitted the original resolution on the "alt-right."

The text of the letter is available at [unifyingleadership.org](http://unifyingleadership.org), where others may add their names as signers.

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BQ DBMD FQVQGDQDB KQ, MZL

FQGGPNQDB ZAD KO EAFLJ, BMDB AZQ

DBMD VRLWQDB BPK; DBQ EAFL DBMD

P BMNQ JUAXQZ, DBQ JMKQ JBMII

VRLWQ BPK PZ DBQ IMJD LMO.

VABZ DEQINQ: YAFDO-QPWBD

Clue: V = J

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark 8:36

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing: no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

## PUERTO RICO

cont. from p. 1

territories suffered direct strikes while Hurricane Irma was a Category Five storm.

"About 100 volunteers from state Baptist conventions not currently committed to Texas [Hurricane Harvey relief] or Florida [Hurricane Irma relief] are going to Puerto Rico," Gann said. "As teams rotate in and out during the long-term recovery effort, MBDR may be tasked to send volunteers."

Gann added that Spanish speakers will be needed if MBDR volunteers are called to Puerto Rico.

As the plan to send help and hope unfolds, NAMB will be working with Southern Baptists to establish church-to-church partnerships that will help meet long-term needs.

While awaiting FEMA's go-ahead, NAMB started coordinating with pastors in Puerto Rico, FEMA, and relief organizations in order to prepare for an immediate and long-term response. NAMB has already prepared relief packages for Puerto Rican Southern Baptist pastors that are filled with resources to help them serve their communities.

In the coming weeks, NAMB and SBDR will be sending volunteers who will staff kitchens and provide food for Hurricane Maria survivors. Trained disaster relief personnel will be sent to the island first, followed later by untrained volunteers, who will receive training on-site or en-route to their service destinations.

In the Virgin Islands, a mobile kitchen from the Alabama Baptist Convention is in transit via ship and should arrive in St. Thomas early next week. Two Alabama SBDR leaders will arrive a few days later to start setting up the kitchen and establish relations with pastors there.

They will also be helping to set up an island-wide response before

a volunteer team from Alabama will come in to start serving meals.

For individual and church information on volunteering in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, visit [sendrelief.net](http://sendrelief.net).

## Texas

While Puerto Rico and the response in the Caribbean garners headlines, the needs in Texas persist. SBDR and NAMB's Send Relief volunteers have continued to chip away at the carnage left by Hurricane Harvey.

Mickey Caison, who recently retired as NAMB's national coordinator for disaster relief, has been guiding the Send Relief response in Houston. Caison reported that, by the end of October, nearly 1,600 Send Relief volunteers from all over the United States will have come in to serve in Houston and beyond.

Hundreds of MBDR volunteers have rotated in and out of the Orange, Texas, area near the border with Louisiana, Gann said, and the need for volunteers is still great.

"Mississippi Baptists have completed 140 jobs [mud-out/cleanup], and we have 140 jobs to go. We're halfway through the jobs that have been assigned to us, and it's going to take a lot of volunteers to finish up," he said.

Likewise, Caison said Send Relief's biggest need at the moment is for churches to send volunteers who are capable of leading volunteer teams - experienced people who can assess a site and direct the crew as to what needs to be done.

Send Relief ([sendrelief.net](http://sendrelief.net)) could also use volunteers who can manage entire sites from administration to warehousing to other forms of organization. For church and individual information on volunteering through MBDR, e-mail [msdisasterrelief@mbcb.org](mailto:msdisasterrelief@mbcb.org).

## Florida

The Southern Baptist response to Hurricane Irma in Florida is

moving forward as well. SBDR teams as well as volunteers from Send Relief have been hard at work serving meals and clearing out homes and property.

Gann reported that MBDR's mass feeding unit and rotating teams of volunteers, stationed at Idlewild Church in Lutz in the Tampa area, has returned to Mississippi as meals counts dropped below 500 per day for the unit, which can prepare up to 20,000 meals per day.

The MBDR mass feeding unit is a fully self-contained, commercial kitchen mounted on a tractor-trailer rig. It has an industrial power generator, potable water, and a propane cooking supply. For the Hurricane Irma response, the mass feeding unit was accompanied by another 18-wheeler filled with food in case supply lines were disrupted due to the hurricane.

As of Sept. 28, SBDR reported serving more than 500,000 meals and completing nearly 900 assorted recovery jobs. Volunteers have also seen over 40 professions of faith.

In the Virgin Islands, two Florida Baptist Convention leaders are set to arrive early next week and will join the Alabama Baptist personnel in helping to set up the Southern Baptist disaster relief response that will take place in the coming weeks.

## Donations

Financial donations are always needed to provide for specific supplies and other items that are necessary for response activities. Financial donations may be given through MBDR and will go directly to support victim recovery in partnership with local Baptist churches and associations. Donations may be made on-line at [mbcb.org/giving/](http://mbcb.org/giving/). Checks made payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, designated "Hurricane Relief" on the memo line, may be mailed to MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

## Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

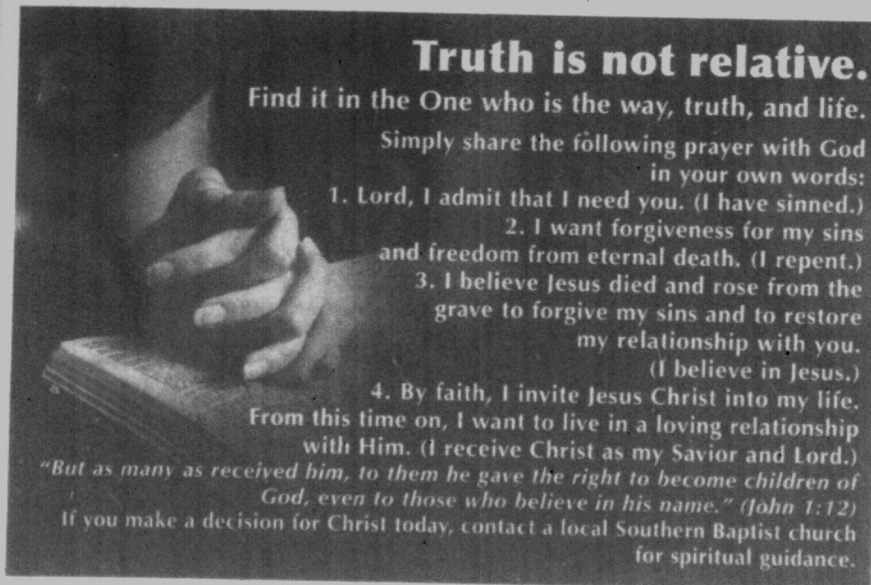
Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Sean A. Milner, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 27  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242  
[www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com)

## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

### SEPTEMBER 16-30

#### HONORS

Eric and Jolynn Hystad  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Edith Polk  
Mr. & Mrs. Tripp Thomas

Mr. & Mrs. David Oswald  
Mrs. Sheila Huffman  
Connie Ellard  
Jack & Judy McRee  
Ethel Ford  
Mr. & Mrs. Wade L. Allen  
Mr. Lavon (Bob) Freeman  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter H. Bailey, Jr.  
Ms. Renee Brewer  
Mr. & Mrs. Crawford Byrd, Jr.

### SEPTEMBER 16-30

#### MEMORIALS

Mrs. Marilyn Alford  
Silver Creek BC  
Bro. Leo Barker  
Ms. Mary Lee  
Kristin Michael  
Mr. Gene Barnett  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Burnett  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Baker  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Revette  
Jahazel Buckley  
Mr. Ted Buckley  
Mr. Robert M. Causey Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Steele  
Dr. Joe Collins  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Cherise Craft  
Kennedy Springs BC Mission Center  
Mr. David Denson  
Mrs. Cherry L. Denson  
Ms. Delores Derroh

Dr. & Mrs. David Rives  
Hank and Becky Peebles  
Ms. Lorine David  
Rev. Bartis Harper  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Johnson  
Uta Grubbs  
Mr. Edward J. Langton  
John Wesley Herring  
Ms. Verlein Butler  
Mrs. Frankie Howard  
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas, Jr.  
Tom Jackson  
Young at Heart Singers, FBC  
McComb  
William Thomas (Tom) Jackson  
Mr. & Mrs. Balfour Lipscomb  
Ms. Wilma James  
Patty & Beth Sullender  
Baby Levi Johnson  
Mr. Tony Rogers  
Mrs. Pauline Tate Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins

Mrs. Peggy Shuckrow  
Mrs. Ann M. Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Morgan  
Millie "Jean" King  
Mr. & Mrs. Doug White  
Matthew Kirk  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian W. Manning  
Mr. Charles Laird  
Liberty HS Class of 1962  
Mr. Rusty Martin  
Dr. & Mrs. Jay L. Hubbard  
Dr. John McBride  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Jane Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Hawkins  
Ms. Mildred Murphy  
Kay Doss Narmour  
Jane Doss Wilkinson  
Mr. Robert Boyd Patterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Ms. Melva Pearson  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Crowson  
Ed Perry  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Ms. Barbara J. Peterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Dewitt Bilbo  
Gerald & Opal McMurtrey  
Ms. Jo Beth Coleman  
Siloam BC  
Biddie Pickle  
Mr. & Mrs. Al Ray  
Charles A. Roseberry Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Monty Roseberry  
Ms. Eva Jean Saucier  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry W. Cuevas  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry L. Powell  
Ruby Smith Turner  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Margaret E. Sowell  
Walter & Mary Johnson  
Mr. James Russell (J.R.) "Pop" Stubbs  
Mr. Bob Brock  
Brock Accounting, Financial & Tax Services  
Zodiac Aero Evacuation Systems  
The Beard Family  
Mr. Lynn B. Reeves  
Men's SSC, FBC McComb  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Calcote  
Mr. & Mrs. Clark Calcote  
Mr. & Mrs. David Calcote  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark  
Mrs. Dora L. Murray  
Mrs. Eunice L. Case  
Ms. Emma B. Stewart  
Rita Tankisley  
Adult IV Ladies SSC, McCool BC  
Mr. Gabe Terrell  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Amy Wall  
Mrs. Glenda C. Fry  
Young at Heart Singers, FBC  
McComb  
Mrs. Brunell Walley  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Morgan  
Mr. Tommy Woodfin  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins



We were so happy to welcome Mrs. Sonya Auston for a tour of The BCV India Nunnery Campus recently. Sonya serves in the Women's Ministry at Morrison Heights Baptist Church. She is pictured with BCV Public Relations Director, Chrystelle Thames.

# amazonsmile

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## BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at [ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com) or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com).



## Christianity 104: Be Good Neighbors • Luke 10:25-37

A teacher once pulled a nasty trick on us at Crowder Junior High. Miss Shaw gave us a pop quiz that she claimed would count as a high percentage of our grade, that was a pass/fail scenario, and that had a ridiculous time limit. In the panic that ensued, all but one classmate failed to heed her final instruction, to make sure to read the instructions at the top of the test before beginning. When that timer started, there was an audible screeching and a fog of carbon dust raised from the racing pencil leads fighting for traction on paper. The only person that actually read the instructions did as the test instructed, ignore the rest of the test. We were defeated by our own ambition. This week's Sunday School lesson hit me in much the same way.

The writer pulls from the story of the Good Samaritan. No problem, I've heard and preached on that story countless times. I have lots to say about it. Recalling my "schooling" by Miss Shaw, I prepared anyway. Gentle teachers, if you are not taking advantage of the free "Extra for Sunday School" resource available through lifeway.com, this is a good week to give it a try. My confidence was quickly wiped out by the Ex-

tra resource and God was once again in the driver's seat where He belongs. My challenge, it turns out, was to explore God's definition of a good neighbor. To find out, we must first:

**Follow the Scripture, Luke 10:25-28.** Jesus fires a withering shot over the bow of the Jewish leaders and us. His statement in verse 28 says it all. You have sufficient knowledge, take the next step and do! His main critique of the

Jews was their expansive knowledge of God's law, their obsessive observance of the law's ordinances, and nary a fruit to show for it. To claim faith without also feeling drawn to meet the needs of others is a contradiction.

**Listen to Jesus, Luke 10:29-35.** Jesus gives an analogy of finding someone in need and how all the "good" Jews that came along ignored the man bleeding in the ditch. Do not underestimate

the hostility between the Jews and Samaritans. If Jesus were to tell this story in our Churches today, He would talk about the Pastor and Deacon that crossed on the other side of the road and the Muslim or Satanist that stopped and helped. The contrast is that great.

**Show Compassion, Luke 10:36-**

**37.** Notice that the legal expert will not even say the word, "Samaritan". The neighbor is, "the one who showed mercy", he says. Jesus

often asked those He taught to come to a conclusion that is difficult to admit. Some chose to storm off or react violently rather than admit their flaw. He still asks us to come to difficult conclusions. Those that admit to Jesus' accusation are always better off for it. Ignoring or storming off only makes matters worse and prolongs our suffering. He concludes this exchange in verse 37 by repeating the command, "Go and do."

Jesus does not define "neighbor" in terms of those that live within close proximity to us or those that we like or agree with. (see Matthew 5:43-48 to help with this discussion) In our world a "good" neighbor is the one that follows the rules and keep to themselves. A good neighbor is the one that never costs us anything. That is opposite to the definition of the word Jesus uses. Being a good neighbor in God's Kingdom does not mean keeping to ourselves and tending only to our own. It also does not mean showing mercy only to those "worthy" of it, that ask for it, that are grateful for it, or whose needs do not ask more than we are prepared to give.

What do they contribute to Church? Is this person acknowledging Christ or stomping away? 2. What would happen if you missed church or showed up late and dirty because you stopped to help someone on your way there? Which would God prefer? 3. Who are you afraid to help and why? What promises did Jesus make to overcome those fears?

Leathers is a member of First Church, Madison.



### Explore the Bible

with Laura Leathers

## Battle Plan • Matthew 4: 1-10

God has a plan for you in all of life including the worst battles you will ever face. Hear the way the Holy Spirit explains it through the Psalmist pen. "For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made. ... Your eyes saw me when I was formed; all my days were written in your books and planned before a single one of them began," Psalm 139:13-16 (CSB). God's plan for your life is wonderful and His love is unlimited. In His love, He gives us freedom to accept or reject His plans and blessings.

The devil will take our joy away from us if we allow him. A recurring theme in popular Christianity is the question "What Would Jesus Do - WWJD." This is a good question even though some have used it to promote their own ideas and not really sought to find out through prayer and Bible study what Jesus did and what that could tell us Jesus would do. Today's Bible Study Lesson tells us exactly what Jesus did when that Old Serpent, the Devil, tempted Jesus. The writer of Hebrews thought we should understand that Jesus' temptations were real and like the ones we face. These are the words of Hebrews 4:15 (AMP): "For

we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize and understand our weaknesses and temptations, but One who has been tempted [knowing exactly how it feels to be human] in every respect as we are, yet without [committing any] sin."

Matthew gives us a detailed account of how Jesus who was totally God and yet totally man defeated Satan, "The Tempter." Jesus' temptations came immediately after a spiritual high point in his life when he was baptized by John the Baptist. "Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil," Matthew 4:1 (CSB). When Jesus was tired and physically vulnerable, Satan tried to take advantage of Him. "And He went without food for forty days and forty nights, and later He was hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, If You are God's Son, command these stones to be made [loaves of] bread," Matthew 4: 2-3 (AMP).

Satan's subtle dishonesty shows when he says, "If You are God's Son." Satan knew full well that Jesus was God's Son, which is why he was trying to tempt Him. James tells us that Satan and all of his demons know that Jesus is God's one and only Son. James states this truth emphatically, "You believe that God is one; So do the demons believe and shudder [in terror and horror such as make a man's hair stand on end and ...]" James

2:19 (AMP). Just 40 days before Satan challenges Jesus with "If You are God's Son" he had seen and heard this scene: "When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice from heaven said: 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,'" Matthew 3:16-17 (CSB).

Satan had no honest question if this was God's beloved Son, with whom He

was well pleased. And Jesus had no question either. Jesus answered by quoting scripture that He had known from boyhood. These words come from Deuteronomy 8:3.

Jesus gives us a good example of answering Satan's temptations and attacks by quoting a verse He knew by heart. He knew these verses because every week He was in the synagogue learning scripture. Luke tells us it was His habit to be in the synagogue and participate in the service every Sabbath. This is the way the Bible records this important part of Jesus' life for us: "So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read," Luke 4:16 (AMP).

Using this spiritual training Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:16, "Do not test the Lord Your God" when Satan tried to misuse Psalm 91:11-12 to do a great dramatic trick to impress people. The Jesus sent Satan packing after telling him "For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him," Matthew 4:10 (CSB).

Hicks is Associational Missions Director for Jasper Association.

### Bible Studies for Life

with Don Hicks



## HB 1523

cont. from p. 1

Governor Phil Bryant. The bill was sponsored in the Mississippi House of Representatives by: ■ Tracy Arnold of Booneville. ■ Scott Bounds of Philadelphia.

■ Randy Boyd of Mantachie. ■ Lester Carpenter of Burnsville. ■ Dan Eubanks of Walls. ■ Andy Gipson of Braxton. ■ Philip Gunn of Clinton. ■ William Shirley of Quitman. Opponents of HB 1523 have not yet made a formal com-

mitment to appeal the Fifth Circuit ruling, but the head of the lead group against the law hinted at their plans in an article by political editor Geoff Pender the Oct. 1 edition of The Clarion Ledger newspaper in Jackson.

"HB 1523 is a reckless law that discriminates against and

hurts the LGBT community," said Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, director of the pro-LGBT Campaign for Southern Equality. "We have fought this from day one and will continue to do so with every tool available to us."

Bryant issued a statement Oct. 1 that read, "As I have

said from the beginning, this law was democratically enacted and is perfectly constitutional. The people of Mississippi have the right to ensure that all of our citizens are free to peacefully live and work without fear of being punished for their sincerely held religious beliefs."

YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN. MATTHEW 5:16

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

ON HIS

mission

FOR HIS

glory

MARGARET LACKEY

OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS  
MISSISSIPPI

YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN. MATTHEW 5:16

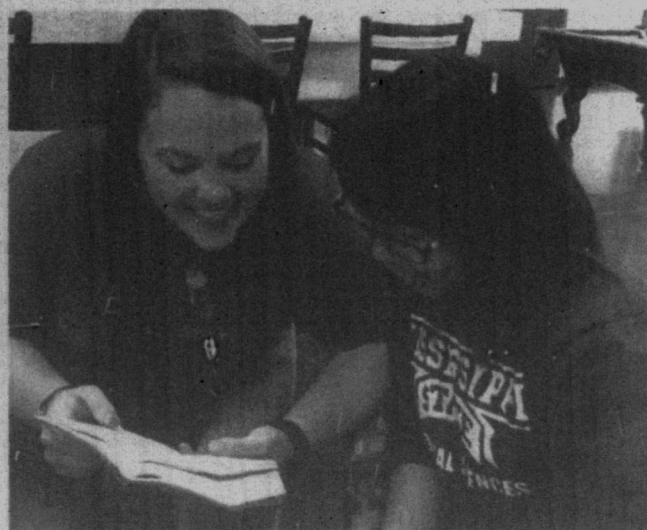
COLLEGIATE OUTREACH

## A whole new world

"One of my favorite ministry experiences happened just a couple of months ago and it involved a student from Nepal," said Ashley Taylor, Associate BSU director at Mississippi State University. His name was Deepak. He had been at Mississippi State a couple of years, and he came in the BSU in the fall semester because he needed help with his car that was in the shop and needed some extra money to get it out. I connected him with one of our local churches and we got him help.

"As a result of that he kept coming back to the BSU. He came back for one of our welcome back events, and at one of the tables he saw a flyer for our fall retreat. He called me over and said, 'Ashley - can I come on this fall retreat?' I told him sure, that it was open to anybody. He had a great experience, began to connect with some of our students who are involved in our ministry, and as a result of Deepak becoming involved in the BSU he developed a relationship with Jessica Turman, who is one of our students who is over our international hour now. A year ago, Jessica was scared to death of international students. At that fall retreat she began to build a relationship with him and because of that her eyes were opened to a whole new world."

"Last semester I met Deepak the second week of school," said Jessica Turman. "Out of all of his friends at the table at international hour he was



the only one who wanted to come on fall retreat. Deepak had never heard of Jesus or the Gospel. He didn't know what the Bible was. He came with us that weekend and we poured our lives into him. I found a friend in him that I had not found in any other of the international students up until that time."

"I am from the eastern part of Nepal," said Deepak. "I heard that the people in the BSU were very helpful and ready to help. I asked for help

from Ashley and that's how I became involved in the BSU."

"I'm so thankful for the opportunity I have to walk alongside these students as they make an investment in the lives of the international students on our college campus," said Taylor. "It's because of people who choose to give to the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering that help make that possible. So thank you for giving me the opportunity to share in this journey."

## ALLOCATIONS

### MISSION VOLUNTEERS | \$685,000

Mississippi Baptists mobilized over 30,000 volunteers last year. Margaret Lackey provides training, travel assistance, and connections to Southern Baptist missionaries in North America and around the world. A \$500 gift helps to send a Mississippi volunteer to Asia. Contact Mike Ray or Cassie Munn at (800) 748.1651 ext 398 or (601) 292.3398.

### CENTRAL HILLS | \$405,000

"Learning the ropes" of missions involvement is a key function of Central Hills Retreat in Kosciusko. Almost 5,000 campers were trained last year, and many made decisions for Christ. A \$200 gift will cover expenses for a missionary speaker. For more information contact Don Gann (800) 748.1651 ext 339 or (601) 292.3339.

### GARAYWA | \$405,000

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center provided missional training and inspiration for more than 6,800 persons last year. Over 1300 campers attended Garaywa Missions Camp and 70 made professions of faith in Christ. A \$185 gift sends a Mississippi girl to camp. Anne Wilson has more information: 601.924.7034.

### COMMUNITY MINISTRY | \$180,000

Margaret Lackey grants help fund church-led mission projects in communities all across our state. Associational Missions Directors identify needs, design Gospel responses, and coordinate the activities. A \$100 gift rents a block party trailer. Talk to your local AMD for more information.

### CHURCH MULTIPLICATION | \$175,000

Almost two million Mississippians are unchurched. Margaret Lackey gifts provide the initial funding to start new churches focused on reaching our fellow Mississippians with the Gospel. A \$250 gift provides the weekly rent for a new congregation to meet. Johnny Ervin has more information (800) 748.1651 ext 361 or (601) 292.3361.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES | \$65,000

Jesus described true faith as "I was in prison and you visited me..." Margaret Lackey funds help provide visits for people in prisons all across our state. Your gifts provide teaching materials for local leaders and seminary classes at Parchman. A \$20 gift purchases a Free on the Inside Bible. For more information contact Charles Jories (662) 721.0264 or John Henry (662) 508.0293.

### DISASTER RELIEF | \$65,000

When Mississippi hurts, Baptists care! Margaret Lackey trains disaster relief specialists who are ready at the sound of a siren to cook, clean, clear, and encourage the victims of disastrous events. A \$150 gift provides 50 hot meals prepared by our volunteers. For more information contact Don Gann (800) 748.1651 ext 339 or (601) 292.3339.

### LANGUAGE/DEAF MINISTRY | \$40,000

Margaret Lackey makes sure our non-reading and non-hearing neighbors have access to the Gospel. Your gifts helped train more than 100 leaders for ESL, ARW, and Chronological Bible Storying. A \$20 gift provides the training workbook needed by volunteers. Call Cindy Townsend (800) 748.1651 ext 318 or (601) 292.3318 for more information about Language Ministry. Call or text Jim Booth (601) 201.3361 for more information about Deaf Ministry.

### CROSS CULTURAL EVANGELISM | \$32,500

Margaret Lackey recognizes 6 different language groups in Mississippi. The offering funds also help share the Gospel with over one million African-Americans. A \$10 gift provides a foreign language Bible. Chris McNairy has more information (770) 814.1405.

### CWJC/CWJC | \$25,000

Twenty-four percent of Mississippi's population lives below the poverty line. Christian Men's/Women's Job Corps combine discipleship and job skill training to assist men and women. There are more than 20 CWJC/CWJC sites across our state. A gift of \$20 provides What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty, a resource for training ministry volunteers. Tammy Anderson (800) 748.1651 ext. 323 or (601) 292.3323 has more information.

### COLLEGIATE OUTREACH | \$12,500

Through our BSU organizations, Margaret Lackey encourages international and ethnic students to explore the Gospel and meet Christian believers. A \$25 gift helps host Gospel fellowships on major campuses. Contact Lloyd Lunceford or Jennie Taylor at (800) 748.1651 ext 299 or (601) 292.3299.

### PORT MINISTRY | \$10,000

More than 5,000 international sailors visit Mississippi every year. Through port ministries in Pascagoula and Gulfport, Margaret Lackey offers a Christian witness and warm hospitality. A \$5 gift purchases a Jesus Film that sailors can take home with them. Adrian Turner (229) 623.0103 has more information about the Pascagoula Ministry. Steve Mooneyham (228) 832.4311 has more information about the Gulfport Ministry.

GOAL: \$2,100,000